

Amendments of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-41 (Cancelled)

Claim 42 (Previously Presented): A closure for a passageway having one or more walls and a mouth defined by the wall or walls, the closure including:

- an upper end adapted in use to be located at the mouth;
- a base adapted in use to be located within the wall or walls remote from the mouth; and
- a concertina element having internal folds and external folds, the concertina element being adapted to retain the closure in use in place between the wall or walls and being capable of being unfolded to allow the closure to be removed from the wall or walls, characterised in that the base is closed.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim [[1]] 42, wherein the passageway is a bottle neck.

Claim 44 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim [[1]] 42, wherein the passageway is of regular cross-section.

Claim 45 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim [[1]] 42, wherein the wall or walls are ribbed, threaded or smooth.

Claim 46 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim [[1]] 42, wherein the closure seals the mouth completely in situ.

Claim 47 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim [[5]] 46, wherein the closure seals the mouth and the surrounding wall or walls.

Claim 48 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim [[1]] 42, wherein the closure is retained in place by friction.

Claim 49 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim [[1]] 42, wherein the external folds are adapted to bear against the wall or walls of the passageway when the closure is in use.

Claim 50 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim [[8]] 49, which includes a collapsible core adapted to contact the internal folds of the concertina element and cause the external folds to bear against the wall or walls of the passageway when the closure is in use.

Claim 51 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim [[9]] 50, wherein the core is inflatable.

Claim 52 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim [[8]] 49, which includes means adapted to hold the upper end in fixed relationship to the closed base.

Claim 53 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim [[11]] 52, wherein the means comprise a tension cord linking the upper end with the closed base.

Claim 54 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim [[8]] 49, which includes an internal core adapted to contact at least some of the internal folds of the concertina element and cause the external folds to bear against the wall or walls of the passageway when the closure is in use.

Claim 55 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim [[13]] 54, wherein the internal core is made of cork.

Claim 56 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim [[1]] 42, wherein the concertina element is adapted to retain the closure in place by a locking element adapted to be unlocked by remote activation means to allow the closure to be removed from the wall or walls.

Claim 57 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim [[1]] 42, which includes an intermediate wall or walls, the external folds of the concertina element being adapted in use to bear against the intermediate wall or walls, which are adapted in use to bear against the wall or walls of the passageway.

Claim 58 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim [[1]] 42 or [[16]] 57, wherein the concertina element has folds forming a spiral.

Claim 59 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim [[1]] 42 or [[16]] 57, wherein the concertina element is adapted to be released by manipulation of a cord, ribbon or flange attached to the closure.

Claim 60 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim [[15]] 56, wherein the locking element is adapted to be unlocked by application of a magnetic field.

Claim 61 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim [[1]] 42 or [[16]] 57, wherein the closure includes means for sensing at least one characteristic of a nearby substance.

Claim 62 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim [[20]] 61, wherein the or each characteristic is chosen from the group comprising: temperature, pressure, chemical composition, presence of a gas and absence of a gas.

Claim 63 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim [[20]] 61, wherein the means for sensing is chosen from the group comprising: a temperature sensor, a pressure sensor and a chemical sensor.

Claim 64 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim [[1]] 42 or [[16]] 57, wherein the closure includes means for sensing light or movement.

Claim 65 (Currently Amended): A closure as claimed in claim [[20]] 61, which includes means for indicating information received from the sensor.

Claim 66 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim [[24]] 65, wherein the indicating means is a light or an information display.

Claim 67 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim [[20]] 61, which further includes a display showing price or period remaining before a chosen deadline.

Claim 68 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim [[26]] 67, wherein the display is adapted to be changed by an external signal.

Claim 69 (Currently Amended): A closure as claimed in claim [[1]] 42 or [[16]] 57, which further includes processing means adapted to carry out one or more of the following functions: interaction with external processing means, receipt, storage and communication of data and/or information, receipt and/or sending of data and/or information from or two one or more sources internal and/or external to the closure, and storage of information.

Claim 70 (New): A closure for a container adapted to store contents, the closure being removable to permit dispensing of the contents, the closure including:

seal means adapted to prevent the dispensing of the contents from the container when in the sealed position; and

processing means capable of interacting with external processing means and being adapted to receive, store and communicate data and/or information concerning the contents whilst the sealed means is in the sealed position, the processing means being physically housed in or on the closure and being adapted to receive and/or send data and/or information from or to one or more sources internal and/or external to the container.

Claim 71 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim ~~[[29]]~~ 70, wherein the contents are chosen from the group comprising: a beverage, a foodstuff, a pharmaceutical product and one or more chemicals in powdered, liquid and/gaseous form.

Claim 72 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim ~~[[29]]~~ 70, which is in the form of a plug, cap or membrane seal.

Claim 73 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim ~~[[29]]~~ 70, which includes tamper-evident or securing means.

Claim 74 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim ~~[[29]]~~ 70, which includes security or locking means to resist unauthorised access.

Claim 75 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim ~~[[29]]~~ 70, wherein the seal means is releasable upon receipt of an encrypted signal.

Claim 76 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim ~~[[29]]~~ 70, wherein the processing means includes computer processing means.

Claim 77 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim ~~[[35]]~~ 76, wherein the processing means is capable of communicating remotely with an external processing means.

Claim 78 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim ~~[[35]]~~ 76, wherein the processing means is programmable upon input from an external source and has read/write capabilities.

Claim 79 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim ~~[[35]]~~ 76, wherein the processing means includes a communication port externally accessible by a user.

Claim 80 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim ~~[[35]]~~ 76, wherein the processing means is linked to sensing means capable of determining real time status or characteristics of the contents.

Claim 81 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim ~~[[39]]~~ 80, wherein the sensing means is adapted to sense one or more of: temperature, movement, pressure and chemical compound.

Claim 82 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim ~~[[29]]~~ 70, wherein the seal means is releasable by remote activation means.

Claim 83 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim ~~[[41]]~~ 82, wherein the remote activation means includes one or more magnetic elements adapted to move from a position corresponding to the sealed position to a position enabling release of the closure from the container.

Claim 84 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim ~~[[42]]~~ 83, wherein the remote activation means includes magnetic inductance means.

Claim 85 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim ~~[[29]]~~ 70, wherein the seal means includes shape-memory material and is adapted to assume the sealed position or to release upon application of heat, electrical current or electrical magnetic radiation.

Claim 86 (Currently Amended): The closure of claim [[29]] 70, wherein the seal means includes a concertina element having internal folds and external folds, the concertina element being adapted to retain the closure in place between a wall or walls of a passageway of the container, the concertina element being capable of being unfolded to allow the closure to be removed from the wall or walls.